

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03644 140351Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /026 W
-----085466 140354Z /21

R 101130Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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FOR DEPT UNDERSECRETARY BEN H. READ FROM AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON
SUBJECT: JANUARY 1979 SOUTH ASIA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 201025

1. MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR HAVING GIVEN PROMPT AND PERSONAL CONSIDERATION TO OUR REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TRAVEL OF OUR WIVES TO THIS CONFERENCE IS EXCEEDED ONLY BY MY DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE NEGATIVE REPLY. I OF COURSE ACCEPT YOUR JUDGEMENT THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY, AND GIVEN THE LEGISLATIVE HISTORY, YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DISAPPROVE OUR REQUEST FOR THIS MEETING.

2. HOWEVER, I RECALL THAT THIS IS THE SAME RESPONSE WE RECEIVED TO THE SAME QUESTION A YEAR AGO FOR OUR LAST GATHERING. I AM NATURALLY WONDERING WHAT HAS BEEN
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DONE IN THE INTERIM TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. REPORTS OF THE CONGRESS' POSITIVE REACTION TO PROVIDING NEW INTERPRETATIONS OF LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND HELPFUL AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LEGISLATION IN THE WHOLE AREA OF DEPENDENTS, SPOUSES AND FAMILY PROBLEMS, SUGGEST TO ME THAT THIS MAY BE THE TIME TO APPROACH THE CONGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS, PERHAPS WITH A VIEW TO OUR PUTTING IT ON THE AGENDA FOR OUR CONFERENCE. WE COULD THEN PROVIDE YOU WITH DOCUMENTATION WHICH MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH TO THE CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER. I THEREFORE ASK, HOW WE CAN HELP YOU GET THE CONGRESS TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE AUTHORITY TO FUND SPOUSES TRAVEL, WHEN IT IS SO DEMONSTRABLY IN THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, BEYOND PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED "REPRESENTATIONAL" PURPOSES?

4. STATE 200869, JUST RECEIVED, SUGGESTS THE CONGRESS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE VALUE OF TRAVEL BY ACCOMPANYING SPOUSES. HOW CAN THAT AWARENESS BE USED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOUSES?
WRIGGINS

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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